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ination of the body of a man which had been buried twelve days. At first, death was supposed to have been caused by suicidal hanging, afterward, rumors were rife that murder had been committed and the body hung to conceal the crime. The post-mortem examination removed all doubts as to death by suicide. At the coroner's inquest, those who took down the body and prepared it for burial, testified that there were no evidences of an emission of semen, but by persistent endeavor a small drop of fluid was forced from the urethra. In this was found abundance of spermatozoa. Soon after this occurrence, I had an opportunity to examine the body of a man who had hung himself in jail to escape serving a sentence in prison. I examined the clothing and body with great care, but could find no evidences of an emission, but a persistent effort to obtain it from the urethra, was finally rewarded with a small drop of fluid, which contained spermatozoa in numbers. These two cases, but for the careful and prolonged effort, would have been classed with those, where no emission had taken place. The question arises, how general is this condition in such deaths, and is it sufficiently common to constitute an important corroboration, evidence of death by strangulation?

Another question also comes up. Does not this emission occur in all, or most, cases of sudden and violent deaths. I can only say that my friend, Dr. C. O. Baker, who made the last examination related, with me, had an opportunity to examine the bodies of three men who had been killed by the falling of a gravel bank, but did not obtain any such result after patient effort.

COLLEGE MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETIES, BY PROF. SARAH F. WHITING.
(PAGE 27).

MR. E. H. GRIFFETH said that he heartily endorsed the paper by Prof. Whiting. He desired to say also that in his opinion much of the success of microscopical, as well as of other societies, depends on good programmes arranged by the leaders closely followed by the members. Many societies organized under favorable circum-

stances have had but a brief existence for the reason that at the meetings each member has had a programme of his own, discord and failure soon resulting. He complimented the members of the Wellesley College Microscopical Society for their earnest work and further efforts to gain valuable information by attending the meetings of other societies.

NEWTON HALL, 2d.—The greatest need in every educational institution is something to draw the mind of the student to subjects interesting and instructive, other than the regular course of study laid out in the curriculum. There should be an amateur society in every such institution in the land, because a love for the science should be early cultivated, for upon this depends the success of microscopy. By the existence of College Microscopical Societies there would be some departure from the every day work, and microscopical research would be a happy relief, which would be very beneficial to students who are pursuing a liberal course of study. One very potent fact I would mention in this connection. To the student having the medical profession in view, the advantages offered by such a society during his college course would be invaluable, in that, during the four years while in liberal studies, he would become thoroughly familiar with the microscope and its manipulations, and would be prepared for better work when entering the medical college. This paper by Prof. Whiting has been especially interesting to me and I think copies of it should be sent to every college paper in the country for publication, that the matter may thus be brought before both students and faculty.

DR. GEO. E. BLACKHAM.—I wish to express my approval of this paper, and from considerable experience in organizing and conducting local microscopical societies I am convinced that they often fail from over-ambition, from an anxiety to do something which shall be new to science instead of being content with bringing out what is new to the society or to many members of it. In fact, I believe that many local societies die from the mere rarity of the scientific atmosphere in which they attempt to live. I would almost be willing to say that it would be a good rule to insist that no one should be

allowed to take any higher power objective than the one inch to any of the society meetings. Low powers and relatively familiar objects are what interest the amateur and the tyro, and it can not be expected that many members of a local society become experts.

DR. F. S. NEWCOMER.—I heartily endorse the proposition to send copies of this paper to colleges, that a decided step may be taken in developing the germ of investigation with the microscope. We must have more life and blood in this society, and we can get it only from our schools. What the Sunday school is to the church, the college microscopical society must be to this Society.

PROF. ALBERT MCCALLA said that the Agassiz Societies are doing a great deal of good in the way of illustrating the importance of revising college curricula so that they will contain more of the sciences and less of the impractical classics. The question was one that he was pleased to see discussed, because, as an educator, he felt that he would soon have to consider it.

DR. HUDSON said that no physician should attempt to diagnose a case of kidney disease, pyæmia, etc., without using the microscope. Hence, the importance of thorough training of pupils in the use of the instrument.

THE RELATION OF APERTURE TO AMPLIFICATION IN THE SE-
LECTION OF A SERIES OF MICROSCOPE OBJECTIVES,
BY GEO. E. BLACKHAM. (PAGE 33).

PROF. W. A. ROGERS said: "The whole thing depends on the question 'Can we compute resolving powers?' I will not say that we can not and I have my doubts if we can. I question the truthfulness of the formula that is used in the computation. My confidence in it was shaken some time ago when in the measurement of some plates I found errors of one forty-thousandth of an inch. I think that the formula is true as far as it goes, but it does not tell the whole truth. There are conditions that affect it. Take, for instance, Bayard's formula for refractions. It is affected by the